

9-1984

“Notes” from *Nebraska Bird Review* (September 1984) 52(3)

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"“Notes” from *Nebraska Bird Review* (September 1984) 52(3)" (1984). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1203.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/1203>

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NOTES

CORRECTION TO *NBR* 52:42 (LESSER GOLDFINCH). If you didn't find the American Goldfinch in the picture, it wasn't because your eyes were bad; poor communication resulted in its being left out of the picture.

BURCHARD LAKE. Bill Garthright and Bill and Bonnie Mulder went to Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co. 16 April 1984 and saw the Greater Prairie Chickens on their booming grounds. Jim and Sandra Kovanda were there while working on the breeding bird atlas project and reported these birds: 27 May 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Little Blue Heron (immature), 2 Hooded Mergansers, and 1 Forster's Tern; an immature Common Loon 3 and 23 June, and a Loggerhead Shrike 23 June.

WADERS. I found Great Egrets in Holt Co. in mid-June 1984, adult Little Blue Herons at three locations in Boone and Nance counties from April through June, and 10 adult Cattle Egrets in Antelope Co. in mid-July. Also, more American Bitterns than I've found in the past five years combined in the eastern Sandhills.

— *Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 South Third, Albion, Nebraska 68620*

SANDHILL NOTES. On 18 May 1984 I saw Red-necked Phalaropes at Lakeside, American Bitterns and four nests of Marsh Wrens at the marsh near Whitman, and 20 May a Bufflehead at Loup City (a late date). There was a Swainson's Hawk on a nest on Highway 20, a mile east of Hyannis.

— *Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005*

GREAT EGRETS. On 11 April, outside of Laurel, Cedar Co., I spotted 4 Great Egrets and about 20 Franklin's Gulls. I have also seen Greater Yellowlegs and Ring-billed Gulls. From 6 to 10 April I saw Buffleheads, Lesser Scaup, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Shovelers, and Coots.

— *Paul Pearson, Route 2, Box 63, Wakefield, Nebraska 68784*

CATTLE EGRETS. John Schuckman, conservation officer at Crofton, was quoted in the Omaha World-Herald 21 May 1984: "I saw 41 Cattle Egrets gathered on a small temporary pond west of Crofton. Egrets aren't common in this area anytime, and the Cattle Egret is only rarely seen. I'm sure they were attracted to the area because of the water we have standing all over this spring."

WHITE-FACED IBIS. On 7 July 1984 I saw a White-faced Ibis in Sheridan Co., .75 mile south on Lakeside turnoff to Crescent Lake NWR (on property of Arnold Black, Lakeside). I saw the red eyes and legs, purple color across the back (when the sun shone on it in flight), and white fringe around the face. There were several Black-crowned Night-Herons in the same pond. I wanted to photograph it, but couldn't find it the next day, when I had my camera.

— Doug G. Thomas, 1035 Mississippi Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska 69301

BALD EAGLES. Dave Menke (now moved to Alaska) reported that DeSoto NWR set a record on 6 March 1984 by sighting 120 Bald Eagles in one day. This broke the old record by about 30 birds.

BLAINE COUNTY. On 20 May 1984, 8 miles southwest of Brewster, I saw a pair of Long-billed Curlews dive-bombing a Swainson's Hawk that was hunting too close. And just northeast

of Brewster I saw what I took to be a Black-headed × Rose-breasted Grosbeak — a black head, burnt gold breast band, dark back, and white abdomen and belly. I didn't get a good look at the tail or the middle of the back.

— *Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 South Third, Albion, Nebraska 68620*

PRAIRIE FALCON NEST. On 14 May 1984, while on the hiking trail halfway to the top of Scotts Bluff National Monument, I saw a Prairie Falcon gliding nearly level with me about 40 yards away. It stayed almost stationary in the strong winds, so I was able to get a very good look: large brown falcon, no rufous on back or wings, black axillars, no dark cap or facial markings. It was carrying what looked like a small mammal in its talons.

Suddenly a slightly larger falcon flew into the view of my binoculars. The first falcon flipped upside down and handed off its prey to the second one. I followed the larger one with my binoculars and saw the same field marks. Both falcons flew together for a minute, then the smaller one flew down and landed on the facing cliff wall in a crevice where two different layers of rock met.

The cliff wall was about 100 to 150 yards away, but the crevice appeared to be about 6 to 8 feet wide and 3 feet high near the center. It seemed to be several feet deep and was possibly

higher further inside. It was partly divided by a small overhang. On the left side, where the falcon landed, was bare rock, below which was thickly covered with white droppings; on the right was what appeared to be a large stick nest. I lost sight of the larger falcon for a few minutes, but then it also flew down towards the crevice. It slowed up and looked like it was going to land in the nest, but, at the last minute, it fell off into a glide and went around the corner of the cliff.

I continued to the top and on my way back, about half an hour later, I could see what appeared to be one of the falcons sitting in the right side of the crevice, either on or behind the nest, as if it were incubating. From what I've read, Prairie Falcons do not build a nest but will occasionally use an old nest of another species. These two were probably a mated pair, the smaller a male and the larger a female, and I concluded they were most likely nesting in the crevice.

— Wm. C. Garthright, 2240 North 31st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

A SUMMER RECORD OF A SANDHILL CRANE IN HALL COUNTY. A Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was reported to the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust by Virginia Luebs, on 28 June 1984. I visited the Lueb's farm, southwest of the Alda interchange of I-80, Hall Co., on 29 June and found a single adult Sandhill Crane. The Crane appeared healthy, but a wing injury could have been masked by vegetation height. The Luebs reported that the Crane had been

around their cornfield (Sec. 36, T10N, R11W) for quite a while, had not been seen flying, and had not as yet caused damage to the corn. On 16 July I observed a single adult Sandhill Crane flying along the Platte River (Sec. 12, T9N, R11W), approximately two miles south of the Lueb's farm. I do not know if the same individual is responsible for both sightings. I am also unsure of the reason why it is still present, unless it was recovering from an injury when migration continued north.

— *Thomas E. Labedz, 1009 West Third #3, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801*

INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK. On 26 May 1984 I saw a Willow Flycatcher and a Summer Tanager at Indian Cave State Park, Richardson Co.

— *Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005*

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD. On 15 May, 1984, I saw a Cassin's Kingbird on the Sowbelly Canyon Road, about 2 miles northeast of Harrison. It was very similar to the Western Kingbird, but had narrow buffy-white tip to tail, no white on sides of tail, and darker gray on head. I got a very close look from the car as the bird sat on the fence. I kept creeping the car closer and it kept moving 10 or 15 feet further down the fence.

— *Wm. C. Garthright, 2240 North 31st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503*

CEDAR COUNTY. On 28 April I saw Water Pipits in Cedar Co., a Stilt Sandpiper 10 May (with Ed Brogie's science students), Bay-breasted Warbler seen by Allen George at a shelterbelt and dam 4 miles north of Laurel 17 May, and I saw a Blackburnian Warbler. It was from 10 to 30 feet from the ground, and would fly into a swarm of gnats and feed. The next day (18 May) Al George, Steve Dybdal, and I went to the dam and saw a Chestnut-sided Warbler which let us get very close.

— Mike Erickson, Route 2, Wayne, Nebraska 68787

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Purdum, Blaine Co., 22 April 1984.

— Russell Benedict, 303 Orchard Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

SEDGE WREN, A NEW BIRD SPECIES FOR MORMON ISLAND CRANE MEADOWS. Sedge Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*) were recorded on Mormon Island Crane Meadows, south of Grand Island, in Hall Co., for the first time on 28 June 1984. Two adults were seen and heard in a sedge meadow on the island (Sec. 34, T10N, R10W). Two Sedge Wrens were heard in the same location on 3 July, but the singing was less frequent. The Wrens could not be located on 9 July. The portion of the meadow where the Wrens were recorded had been part of a breeding bird

survey plot. A visit to this plot on 26 June revealed no Wrens, thus the two might have been recent arrivals from migration. Sedge Wrens are irregular migrants and may arrive in some nesting areas as late as August (Robbins *et al*, *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America*, 1983).

— Thomas E. Labedz, 1009 West Third #3, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

A KENTUCKY WARBLER IN HALL COUNTY. A single adult Kentucky Warbler (*Oporonis formosus*) was recorded on 5 May 1984 at Hall County Park (Sec. 32, T11N, R9W). The park was partially flooded at the time. The individual was scratching and probing the forest floor, overturning leaves, etc. The portion of the park in which this individual was located has a tall canopy of deciduous trees and a heavy, almost dense, shrub layer near the forest floor. This individual was on the side and crest of a low ridge that was covered with leaf litter. Attempts to relocate this warbler on 7 May were unsuccessful.

Johnsard (*A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*, Occ. Papers of the N.O.U., No.6, 1980) notes Kentucky Warblers as rare to uncommon spring and fall migrants in southeastern Nebraska, and a summer resident in the lower part of the Missouri River's forested valley, north to at least Sarpy Co. It breeds in eastern Kansas and the eastern half of Oklahoma. This distribution represent the probable northwestern extent of the breeding range (*The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds*, 6th Edition, 1983). Kentucky Warblers

are considered casual visitors in South Dakota and are unreported in North Dakota (Johnsgard, 1980). A review of the Nebraska Bird Review from approximately 1950 to the present revealed that Kentucky Warblers had been found in several counties in Nebraska outside the Missouri River counties south of Sarpy Co.; Adams 1950 and 1951, Brown 1964, Burt 1959, Dakota 1958, Gage 1953, Lancaster 1974, Saline 1952, and Wheeler Co. The Wheeler County report was from Bartlett and was included in the article *The First Eleven Years of Breeding Bird Surveys in Nebraska* (NBR 46:38-62, 1978). Hall County may now be included in this list. Nearly all of the above records are during normal migration schedules and Kentucky Warblers have been known to wander as far west as Boulder and Golden, Colorado, in 1963 and 1964, respectively (*Birds of Colorado*, Bailey and Neidrach, 1965). As suitable habitat becomes available in these and other counties in Nebraska, the occurrence and breeding range may be extended both north and west within the state.

— Thomas E. Labeledz, 1009 West Third #3, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

(The original data, not available to Mr. Labeledz, show that the Wheeler Co. record was for 1969. Ed.)

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER. I saw a MacGillivray's Warbler 13 May 1984 in Bridgeport State Recreation Area. It had a complete dark gray hood, greenish upperparts, yellow

underparts, to bold white crescents above and below its eye. I had stopped the car to look at an Osprey perched in a dead tree and then noticed the warbler in a bush just 10 feet or so from the car.

— *Wm. C. Garthright, 2240 North 31st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503*

DIXON COUNTY. On 17 April 1984 I saw a Green-tailed Towhee 5 miles north of Dixon. John Chace, Paul Pearson, and I saw a Swamp Sparrow on 19 April. These are very uncommon in this area.

— *Allen George, Route 1, Box 50, Dixon, Nebraska 68732*

ROSY FINCH. My first sighting of a Rosy Finch was here on our farm on 1 January 1984. Another first sighting for me was a Mountain Bluebird on 7 March.

— *Galen Wittrock, Route 2, Lodgepole, Nebraska 69149*